

# **Communicating to Groups for Community Improvement: the KELP Experience**

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# Communication for Community Involvement – KELP experience

- KELP – Kansas Environmental Leadership Program – educating about water issues and enhancing leadership skills
- Begun in 1998-9
- Over 170 participants
- Leadership Skills – communication is of great importance
- “Working in Groups for Community Improvement” – summary

# “Working in Groups...”

- Purpose: summarize skills, tips, and information that enable a group to interact more effectively and achieve goals
- Pgs 2-6 information (communication skills on page 6)
- Pgs 7-8 outlines how to take a vision to an action plan
- Pgs 9 – 16 are the “nuts and bolts” of how to meet, inform, & publicize a project

# 2-Way Communication

- Pairs sit back to back, one describes a design and the other draws it without speaking or seeing the design
- End of time – compare drawing to design
- Repeat with roles reversed, BUT this time the drawer CAN ask questions
- Discussion:
  - What made description successful?
  - How did understanding develop?
  - How did 2-way communication affect success?

Tinker Toy Joy

or

You just THOUGHT you knew  
what was said

# Tinker Toy Joy Objective:

Be the first team to accurately duplicate the unseen sculpture.

- Each team consists of a Describer, a Runner, an Observer, and the Builders
- The Describer looks at the sculpture & describes it to the Runner, who runs to the Builders and verbally gives the description
- The Observer can see the sculpture, but cannot speak other than to answer “Yes” or “No”
- The Builders work together to duplicate the sculpture based on descriptions and answers to their questions

# Who does What

- **DESCRIBER** –can look at the sculpture and describe it to the RUNNER
- **RUNNER** –cannot see the sculpture and is to listen to the description and repeat to the BUILDERS, but cannot answer questions
- **OBSERVER** –can see the sculpture & cannot describe it to the BUILDERS, but can respond “yes” or “no” to their questions
- **BUILDERS** – are to duplicate the unseen sculpture and can ask “yes” or “no” questions only of the OBSERVER

# Discussion Questions

- How did team act initially and how did communication change as time passed?
- Was misinformation a problem? Why?
- What was most confusing?
- How was misinformation discovered and corrected?
- Was anyone frustrated? Did it affect others? Might the number of Builders be a factor in communication?